

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

April 20, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with us on March 8 to discuss the escalating prices of prescription drugs. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to present you with our draft bill, *The Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act*, which would allow the government to negotiate for better drug prices.

During our meeting we asked for your public support for our bill, as well as any feedback you or your staff may have on our legislation. Unfortunately, we have received no response over the past six weeks.

We have been very encouraged by your statements in support of efforts to bring down drug prices through more robust negotiation with drug companies—before, during, and after our meeting. For example, on January 11, before we met, you stated forcefully that we need to “create new bidding procedures for the drug industry.”¹ And on March 20, after we met, you argued even more strenuously that we need a “fair and competitive bidding process” to bring drug prices “way, way, way down.”²

We could not agree more. However, we need action more than words. Your public endorsement of *The Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act* would focus significant attention on this issue and help press congressional leaders to allow a vote on this critical measure. We are eager to introduce our bill when Congress reconvenes, but our efforts would be much stronger with your support.

¹ *Transcript of President-Elect Trump’s News Conference*, CNBC (Jan. 11, 2017) (online at www.cnbc.com/2017/01/11/transcript-of-president-elect-donald-j-trumps-news-conference.html).

² *Transcript of President Trump Rally in Louisville, Kentucky*, CSPAN (Mar. 20, 2017) (online at www.c-span.org/video/?425711-1/president-trump-promises-pass-health-care-bill-form).

Mr. President, we strongly believe this is an historic opportunity to reach higher ground. There is no doubt that we disagree on many issues, but this is one area we may be able to work on together to ensure that all Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—can afford their prescription drugs. This would be a significant achievement, and it would help save lives.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member



Peter Welch
Member of Congress